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MACLEAN, (D)

OBSERVATIONS UPON THE MUTUAL RELATIONS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE STATE.

ADDRESS

BY

DONALD MACLEAN, M. D.,

PRESIDENT MICH. STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

DELIVERED BEFORE THE SOCIETY.

AT

PORT HURON, JUNE 10, A. D. 1885.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY.

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# ANNUAL ADDRESS

OF THE

PRESIDENT, DONALD MACLEAN, M. D., DETROIT, MICH.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—In rising to address you in accordance with the established usage of the association, my first and most agreeable duty is to acknowledge, as far as it is possible for me to do so in words, my grateful appreciation of the high honor conferred upon me by your kind partiality in electing me to be your president. My strongest wish and highest ambition will ever be to show by arguments and proofs more convincing than the most eloquent words that the confidence reposed in me has not been altogether misplaced, nor your kindness entirely undeserved. I must, however, resist the temptation to linger over this agreeable portion of my task and pass on at once to matters of a less personal nature.

Subjects suitable for presentation to such an association as ours on an occasion like the present are undoubtedly numerous and attractive. The main difficulty is to decide definitely in favor of any particular one in view of the embarrassing riches by which we are surrounded.

The domain of medicine is so vast, its interests and relations so far-reaching and important; so multifarious and manifold are the aspects from which it may be contemplated, that notwithstanding the fact that medical conventions and medical addresses are matters of almost every day occurrence in this age and country, there seems still to be vast opportunities for profitable discussion and dissertation; provided, only, the ability and inclination to utilize them are mutually possessed by the speaker and his audience.

Having a very intimate acquaintance with the personnel of this association, my faith in the ability and earnestness of my audience is unbounded. For the speaker I cannot say

nearly so much, especially as regards the question of ability. And still, more than twenty-five years of unremitting and earnest toil in the ranks of the profession; more than twenty years' experience as a teacher in medical schools, and lastly fully thirteen years' experience as a practitioner and a teacher in this state, ought surely to give me something of a claim to speak on matters pertaining to the teaching and practice of medicine in Michigan.

So far as the present condition and prospects of medicine as a profession are concerned, this may be said without fear of successful contradiction, that there never has been a time in the history of the world when the profession of medicine ranked so high in public esteem as it does to-day. Not only so but to anyone conversant with the history of the profession it is matter of actual knowledge that there never was a time when it was so abundantly entitled to the confidence and esteem of the world as it is to-day.

To men like Hippocrates and Galen, and Vesalius and John Hunter and other intellectual giants, who have in different ages graced the ranks of the profession mankind to the latest generation, will undoubtedly point with grateful and affectionate pride. And still, if those very individuals, those brilliant luminaries in the firmament of the past could behold the Billroths, the Pasteurs, the Listers, the Pagets of to-day, surrounded as they are by troops of worthy confreres and disciples, each one of them in fact the center of a vast constellation of which the individual stars are but little, if at all, less brilliant than the central luminary; if, in short, those magnificent but lonely meteors of the past could be privileged (as perhaps they are) to behold the profession as it is now constituted and conducted with its national and international associations and congresses, not to mention the innumerable smaller but not less active corporations of eminent men devoted to the science for which they did so much, how vast would seem to them the difference between the world of medicine as it is to-day and as it was when they adorned it. How immeasurably superior would seem to them the advantages, the enjoyments, the rewards, in short, the whole life of a medical man to-day from what it was in their time. Past ages may point with confident pride to certain individual stars which shone in the firmament of their time;

stars whose eternal light has helped to illumine all the intervening ages, and which even now lingers and mingles effectually with the light of the present day. But in our day and generation it may be truly said that the medical firmament is refulgent with great constellations of which, although the individual stars may differ from each other in brightness, yet all combine to shed a glorious and a beneficent light upon the world of humanity. Not only so, but to the intelligent observer the deduction is plain and unmistakable that in this science of medicine with its vast army of enlightened, enthusiastic and determined votaries there resides a "promise and a potency" which is irresistible as it is beneficent and beautiful in its influences and results. It has been truly said that modern thinking is getting even into the churches, revising old rubrics and adding new. The old style of sage and of saint has gone by and devotees no longer admire the typical ascetic of the past in his rags and dirt, skin and bone, without children and away from homes and men, measuring his sancity by his absence from the world, and calling it heavenly in proportion as it became less earthly, and making man out to be more godly as he became less human. This style of saint has gone by, and the doctors of medicine have had much to do with dismissing him. Those doctors have been making their mark upon opinion and life, preaching from a powerful pulpit of their own and hearing more confessions in our time than the clergy. Once the priests were physicians, now the physicians are becoming in their way priests and giving laws not only to their own patients but to society, and revising the rubrics and shaping the epos and the ethos of the race. What a confessor the skillful physician is! And in how many tongues does he hear confessions. Rome hears her penitents tell their sins in a score of tongues in her great cathedral; but the physician hears the murmurs of contrition from a harp of a thousand strings in a temple which is the universe in miniature, and to his practiced ear or eye or touch every beat of the pulse, every throb of the temple, every quiver of the lips, and every tremble of the tongue, every twitch of the muscles and tint of the cheek, every temper of the hand and hue of the eye tells the unbroken secret of the life. No march of science threatens this confessional. Let the physician then be true to his priesthood.

That the science of medicine is undergoing rapid and ceaseless evolution could be demonstrated by any one capable of doing justice to so vast and important a theme, by a simple enumeration of the undeniable advances gained in every department within a given period, say for instance my own professional recollection. In anatomy, in chemistry, in surgery, in pathology, in state medicine and sanitary science, to compare the teaching of the text books and the authorities of twenty-five years ago with those of to-day would be an inspiring and instructive task. It is a task, however, which we shall not venture to undertake here; suffice it to say, that in the face of such enumeration and such comparison the advocate and defender of the medical profession need not feel ashamed, however much he may regret the fact that insinuations and open accusations of weakness, imperfection and failure may even yet be truthfully and justly charged against his beloved science, especially in some of its practical applications. The opprobria of practical medicine and surgery are still numerous and serious, but one thing is certain, that the circumstances never were so favorable nor the prospects so bright for their successful and final elimination as at the present.

The investigation of the essential nature of disease, its causes and conditions of existence, never was pursued with so much method, so much earnestness or so much ability as it is to-day. From such efforts by so large and so able an army of workers it is but reasonable to expect with confidence, definite and satisfactory progress, and day by day actual results would seem to justify and strengthen our most sanguine anticipations. I will not pause to discuss here the question of the position and standing of the medical profession of this nation in the great cosmopolitan army of scientific medical men. It is not necessary to do so further than to point to the medical literature of both hemispheres, in which the names of American authors and practitioners are met with on almost every page. A problem of more direct interest for us is whether here in Michigan we ourselves are working to the best possible purpose; whether we have matters so arranged as to avail ourselves of every coigne of vantage in our efforts to aid suffering humanity in its irrepressible conflict with disease and death, for that after all is the real end and aim and *raison d'être* of the medical profession.

The life work of the medical man is three-fold, viz.: First, to do all that in him lies as a practitioner and a cultivator of medical science, to use the knowledge handed down to him to the best advantage. Second, to do all that in him lies to enlarge, extend, and improve that knowledge; and thirdly, to hand it down, that is to say, to teach it to the coming generation. The duty of the profession as a whole may justly be defined and classified in the same way as that of the individual. Do we in Michigan as a profession fulfill the whole of our duty in these three directions? Are we doing all, and the best we can to utilize, for the benefit of mankind the resources of our art as committed to us? Can we say that we as a profession succeed in affording to the sick and suffering of our state the best possible kind and amount of relief within reach of the resources of our art? Are things so arranged as to secure a minimum of sickness and suffering and death, and a maximum of relief and security from these, our inveterate enemies? In the next place, are we doing our whole duty in the way of utilizing for the benefit of the world at large the facilities and opportunities which we enjoy for adding to and improving the general stock of professional knowledge? May we, dare we congratulate ourselves upon the replies which we are in a position to return to these great and burning questions? If we are, then it follows with considerable certainty that the other and equally important portion of our duty as a profession, viz.: the teaching and training of students, is not less perfectly discharged, and if so, we are indeed a fortunate and justly to be envied community of medical practitioners and teachers. But, if these home questions have perforce to be answered, more or less, in the negative, may we not with profit concentrate our thoughts and efforts in an attempt to discover, and if possible eliminate or remedy the unfortunate causes of our failure to discharge our whole duty to our patients, to our profession, and to posterity. Let us try to look these problems fairly in the face, and discuss them dispassionately. For myself, I have to plead guilty to some serious and painful misgivings as to the replies which we can and ought to make to the questions here proposed. And here I desire to say that for any statements or opinions that follow I alone am responsible. I speak for myself as a private individual, a free and inde-

pendent citizen of a free state. In the next place be it understood that my object is not to find fault or to cast reflection on any person or institution, but rather to suggest, if it be possible so to do, methods by which the power and usefulness of the profession in this State may be extended and elevated.

The commonwealth of Michigan is known and honored at home and abroad as much for her liberal patronage of learning as for her munificent charity to all those within her borders, who are fair subjects of public aid and care, such as the insane, the deaf mute, the blind, etc. We must admit that a reasonable amount of patronage has been conferred by the State in the interest of medical science. What ever difference of opinion there may be as to the use that has been made of it, no one can question the fact that for so young and comparatively undeveloped a State, the amount of aid extended to the cause of medicine has been extremely liberal. It would seem that the people of Michigan have demonstrated by acts of public policy their approval of the doctrines of Herbert Spencer, Descartes, Whewell, and others, as expressed in the following well known quotations :

*"First in importance to the individual is that knowledge which is necessary to self-preservation."*

*"If it be possible to perfect mankind the means of so doing will be found in the medical sciences."*

*"Medicine is one of the greatest divisions of human culture."*

*"The study of medicine is the one best suited to the development of the intellectual life."*

In the accuracy and importance of such doctrines you and I of course have the firmest belief, and it is gratifying and encouraging to us as a profession to know that at heart the great mass of the people of this State are practically in accord with us. Medicine is a science of the utmost value to the people, and the latter have demonstrated their knowledge and appreciation of this truth in the most practical manner, by periodically voting liberal contributions for its teaching and development. In view of these important facts it has always seemed to me that a peculiar degree of responsibility rests upon the medical profession of this State. To fulfill our whole duty to a community which has shown itself so appreciative and so generous to us, should be our constant and highest ambition. No effort should

be wanting on our part to afford to the public the best return for their liberality. We owe it to the public and to our profession as a whole to do all in our power to justify and strengthen the liberal and appreciative spirit towards medical science, which at present exists in the public mind in Michigan, and which has exhibited itself in so convincing and practical a manner. Our great responsibilities are obvious and unmistakable. The question as to whether or not we are following the best possible paths in our efforts to discharge them is perhaps rather more doubtful and difficult to answer. At any rate I have felt desirous of presenting here some thoughts and suggestions which long reflection has led me to entertain with very considerable strength of conviction. As I have heretofore said, the duty of the profession to the public is three-fold: First, the treatment of patients, with the utmost possible skill and care; second, the development of medical science by the making, collecting and recording of scientific observations bearing upon the practice of medicine; thirdly, the training and education of the future generation to succeed the present. Now, so far as the first part of our duty is concerned, it cannot be denied that a great deal of very careful, skillful and successful service is rendered to the people by the profession in this state; at the same time it is in my opinion equally certain that a great deal more of such work might and ought to be done.

In order that the highest possible degree of efficiency may be attained in this respect several things are requisite, of which I have only time to notice one or two of the most essential. *First, an efficient law to protect the confiding, unwary and weak-minded sufferer from the insidious snares, and devices of the charlatan and the quack.* For the purpose of securing this most devoutly to be wished for consummation each and every member of the profession should constitute himself a committee of one with the determination to do what he can in the way of moulding and directing public opinion on this subject. The heartrending instances of monstrous malpractice perpetrated by the vast horde of vampires at present permitted and actually encouraged by law to thrive and fatten on the vitals of the people, are sufficiently well known and numerous for all the purposes of argument and illustration. At my public clinic, and in my private practice, I meet them almost

every day, and my experience is not by any means unique or different from that of others. Let me call your attention to one or two examples:

In the spring of 1879 a woman about forty years of age and weighing at the time not less than three hundred pounds, applied at my public clinic for advice and treatment for disease of one of her breasts. On examination I found a very striking state of affairs, and from the patient I received a very striking history of her case. The affected organ presented an enormous fungous excrescence, which was painful and which poured forth a copious discharge of unhealthy fetid fluid, partly pus and partly blood. The effect of this discharge was to keep her person and her clothing continuously saturated, and to render her an object of disgust to herself and to every one around her; still she was fat and fair of skin, her eye was bright, and her general health was good. The disease was entirely limited to the gland in which it had originated and the tissues in the immediate neighborhood. Her history as related by herself in presence of the class was that the trouble in her breast had lasted several years, that it had been pronounced cancer, and that she had placed herself in the hands of a "cancer doctor," so called, *by whom upwards of three hundred caustic plasters had been applied to her breast.* In reply to my question as to whether the plasters had been painful she replied with intense earnestness, "I would rather suffer death twenty times than to bear the pain of one of them."

Of course the case was not one of cancer at all, and if it had been left alone would in all probability have given the patient very little trouble. My duty was to relieve her, if possible, from the horrible effects of her outrageous so called cancer treatment, which I did by administering an anæsthetic and performing a painless but thorough amputation. I here show you two photographs of this case, one taken before and the other after my operation; the latter shows her wound entirely healed and her appearance that of a healthy woman. When last heard from a year or two ago this patient continued alive and well.

Last fall a young man applied to me at Ann Arbor on account of a small but hard fibrous tumor which was packed firmly into the space between the ramus of the jaw and the mastoid process. After careful examination and reflection I advised its

removal, and appointed a day and an hour for a free operation in presence of the class. Unfortunately in the meantime the poor fellow had the misfortune to fall under the malignant influence of a certain conceited and meddlesome scholastic of Ann Arbor by whom he was urged to desert me and repair to Detroit, and place himself in the hands of a full-blooded specimen of the genus "cancer doctor." It so happened that the future progress of this case was watched and reported to me by a friend of the patient. I will be more merciful to this audience than the cancer monger was to his poor victim, and will spare you the recital of his sufferings. Suffice it to say that caustic plasters were applied until the most horrible ravages were inflicted on the important tissues of the neck, and he finally sank and died exhausted by pain, hemorrhage and blood-poisoning, for all of which he paid the modest sum of \$400.

Supposing the quacks to have been exterminated from Michigan like the snakes from Ireland, and the "offensive partisans" from government offices, the next most essential requirement of our profession in its irrepressible conflict in behalf of suffering humanity is a hospital. *We need a hospital.* By that I mean an institution furnished and equipped in the highest degree of efficiency, to which free access may be had without money and without price by the remediable sick and the genuinely poor of Michigan, whose cases necessitate the facilities and appliances which only such an institution can afford. We no doubt have now several hospitals, any one of which might serve as the nucleus of such an institution as we ought to have; and I must take this opportunity to say that in each one of these existing institutions a great deal of most excellent work is done and splendid results are accomplished. And yet we require something more complete, more comprehensive, more metropolitan than any or all of these put together. Let the one which is most advantageously situated as to locality and otherwise be selected as the starting point of the new and real hospital around and in which shall center the efforts and aspirations of a new dispensation in medical matters in Michigan. An institution whose real and final balance sheet is not to be written in dollars and cents, nor in so many young doctors more or less fully fledged and furnished for business, but in suffering relieved, in lives rescued from despair, poverty and misery, and restored to

happiness, usefulness, and independence. An institution, also, which will be an emporium for the accumulation, the preservation and the dissemination of facts and generalizations from actual experience which must of necessity tend to enrich the world's store of reliable and priceless medical knowledge. *To the establishment and maintenance of such an institution the State should not, and in my opinion would not, hesitate to contribute liberally. Not only so, but such an institution could not fail to enlist the sympathies and secure the practical assistance of individual citizens who would consider it a worthy object of their charity and generosity.*

The location of such a hospital should be selected solely with reference to the object for which it is built, that is to say, it should be located precisely on the spot where it would do the greatest good to the greatest number. In this institution provision should be made for all classes of disease, medical, surgical, obstetrical, ophthalmological, and the rest. The records should be preserved with the most scrupulous exactness, and full reports thereof should be published to the world at regular intervals. In this respect it should resemble "a city set on a hill." Its light should be seen of all men. The medical attendants of this hospital should receive their appointments purely on their merits as men of demonstrated talent, experience and character who would be willing to give their services in return for the advantages and opportunities inseparably associated with such positions. In immediate relation with this hospital there should be a library and a museum; also a medical school, the students of which should contribute to the revenues of the institution in return for the educational advantages which they receive from it. *The contributions of the State to the cause of medical science should be made to and through this institution.* It seems to me that money so expended by the State would be a good and perfectly legitimate investment in every sense of the term. To such an investment it is almost impossible that any reasonable and right-thinking citizen could raise any objection. Can we say as much for the pecuniary investments which the people of this State through their representatives have in time past made, (unquestionably with the best of intentions) in the interest of medical science? A negative reply at once forcible and humiliating might be returned to this question by the sim-

ple recital of an existing fact in connection with the expenditure of public funds for *alleged* medical education in Michigan, but it is hardly worth while to disturb our peace of mind at present by further reference to a subject which is already sufficiently notorious.\*

In any review or discussion of medical questions and the many important interests therein involved, it is impossible to avoid the somewhat dangerous one of medical education. I think it will be admitted that the question of the management of the medical schools lies at the very foundation of the whole subject of medical policy. The position and standing of the profession in the community is determined very much by the manner in which the medical schools are conducted. The genius of the profession as a whole is concentrated and embodied in the seats of medical learning. If, then, the profession of this or any other State is ever to attain to its rightful position of usefulness and honor, the medical schools must be elevated to the very highest plane of thoroughness and efficiency. The belief that the mission of a medical school is fulfilled when it is able to point to a goodly list of graduates sent forth to practice the profession in the community, is, I think, a very prevalent one, but surely to such an audience as I have now the honor to address it is needless to point out that such an estimate of the results to be expected from such a source is absurdly inadequate. Surely something more and better than the partial education and graduation of even large classes of students ought to be expected from any institution which deserves the name of a medical school. *I don't think that I can be mistaken when I take the ground that the most essential function of such an institution is the promotion and development of medical science in all its departments, observing, collecting, recording and utilizing natural facts and laws for the benefit of the present and all future generations; evolving and promulgating new theories and new methods of practice, attracting and appropriating to itself for its own great ends the best available talent, giving aid and encouragement to the meritorious, exposing and eliminating the unworthy and irrational, "proving all things, holding fast to that which is good."* These are, in my opinion, the aims and ambitions

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\*Each graduate of the homeopathic college at Ann Arbor this year represents an outlay of public money to the amount of \$2,500!!

*by which a medical school must be animated if it is to prove itself worthy of the age in which we live.*

It is safe to say that there is no department of a system of education which possesses naturally so large capabilities for elevating and promoting the highest and best interests of humanity as the medical; provided it is conducted on right principles and endowed with the requisite facilities. To any one who has given the matter careful reflection this I believe is clear, that the one great draw back to the progress of the profession in the United States is the persistence of certain deep-seated organic faults in the policy of medical schools. From these dangerous and debilitating influences we in Michigan are not altogether free. The ungracious task of analyzing, dissecting, and demonstrating in detail these unfortunate sources of weakness and danger I purposely shrink from here. It is not necessary to parade them. They are already but too well known and appreciated. A question of more interest is, "How are they to be reformed and remedied?" Before going further in this direction, I must, as a matter of simple justice, say that in Michigan, at any rate, something has been done, a genuine effort has been made to inaugurate a policy of true and wise reform in medical education. I am in a position to state that in one school as many as twenty per cent of the applicants for admission at one time have been rejected on preliminary examination. In the same school a curriculum of three sessions of nine months each is now compulsory on every candidate for graduation, and elaborate courses of instruction are given by a corps of teachers, who with barely an exception devote their whole time and energies to their professional duties.

In other fields of professional work the institution in question has not been idle by any means, and in short her record, considering all the circumstances, is a good and honorable one. Nor is the University medical school the only one that has shown its sense of the needs of the profession by endeavoring to institute and work out measures of reform. Other schools in this State have made good records for themselves in this respect. Not only so, these schools have recently given evidence of their determination to do even more in the future by wisely acting on the principle that "union is strength."

While, therefore, we can honestly claim a considerable meed of praise for our Michigan medical schools in the past, while we may say that they have probably done the best that was possible under the circumstances, we still contend with at least equal distinctness that there is much room for future improvement. Moreover, I think we are justified in saying that here in Michigan we have special advantages and special inducements for undertaking and insisting upon the adoption of measures calculated to correct any abuses or weaknesses which at present adhere to our system of medical education. A more universal acceptance of the belief that union is strength is an essential prelude to any kind or degree of success in medical reform. I most earnestly hope that the policy of amalgamation or coalition or consolidation or whatever you please to call it, may extend and grow until it shall have affected the entire profession of the State.

By this I am not to be understood as proposing that all should be incorporated in one or more medical colleges with the rank of professors or teachers. It would be a very easy matter to carry that kind of consolidation too far. There would be extremely little strength in such a union as that. What I do desire to see is the coalition of the different college parties with each other, and with the rank and file of the profession generally in the State, so that whatever rivalry and competition may animate them in the pursuit of their individual interests and ambitions, all shall meet on a common platform and labor together as one man for the accomplishment of such measures of reform as are generally admitted to be necessary, and for the securing of such united action as shall effectually overcome every obstacle in the way of the highest interests of the profession. It is through the concerted action of the various teaching corporations that any such consolidation and unification of the profession as a whole is to be hoped for. With them in a very great measure rests the responsibility of success or failure of any proposition looking to the elevation of the profession.

The experience of other countries which have successfully wrestled with these problems, goes to prove that the first and most important step towards real reformation consists in a complete measure of divorce between the teaching and licensing bodies. We do not require to go far in search of convincing illustrations

of the advantages to all concerned of such a measure. In the neighboring Dominion this policy has been in operation for a good many years, with the effect of affording entire satisfaction to every one except such as have always been known as the deliberate and malevolent enemies of scientific medicine. In Canada as in England, Germany, and in fact all countries in which the medical profession has attained to the highest degree of eminence and efficiency, the university degree or the college diploma does not carry with it the legal right to practice. These instruments are honorary and honorable certificates of merit, and are earnestly sought after as such. They have a virtue and a value of their own, just as has the degree of B. A., M. A., LL. D., etc., of the literary colleges. The legal right to practice the profession in these countries is conferred by a carefully and efficiently constituted board of examiners, before whom all the medical schools and their alumni stand on an equal footing. The preliminary, like the final examinations, are arranged and conducted independently of the professors in the medical schools. All students have to reach a common standard of efficiency before they can enter a medical school, and before they can pass from the school into the profession as practitioners of medicine. To present here an elaborate argument to prove the intrinsic merits and practical advantages of some such policy for the profession in this commonwealth would, I am convinced, be a tiresome work of supererogation. I cannot conceive of any one competent to form an opinion on the subject having any hesitation or misgivings as to its absolute desirability. Doubts and fears might arise as to the feasibility of securing such a reform; as to its inherent value, justice, and wisdom there is no room for argument. One more step in the direction of liberal government of the medical schools suggests itself at this point, and that is a measure of reciprocity between different colleges by which a student may be permitted to divide his time and attention between two or more of them, provided special advantages may be gained by so doing. Candidates for the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in a large proportion of cases take one part of their curriculum in London, part in Edinburgh, and possibly also a part in one or more of the provincial schools, as Cambridge, Liverpool, or Birmingham. The student has in this way the liberty of acquiring

instruction in each particular branch of his professional education under the most advantageous circumstances. By such methods the rivalry between the different schools and the different teachers is altogether salutary, and in every way profitable for the student, for the teacher, for the profession, and last and most important of all for the public. To arrange and work out the details of the various measures which I have referred to would undoubtedly be a difficult and somewhat delicate task. Conflicting and complicating elements and influences of various kinds stare us in the face and will not down. Opposition of the most ingenious and dangerous description must be expected from individuals and combinations whose trademark is "reform," but whose whole stock in trade consists in the most specious and pretentious devices for hoodwinking and debauching the public mind in all matters pertaining to the interests of the medical profession and medical science. I am not blind nor oblivious to the practical difficulties in the way of medical reform in this country in general, and in Michigan in particular. But, when it is acknowledged that every consideration of right and justice and humanity can be unreservedly urged in favor of some such measures as have been suggested, no one save the abandoned pessimist and the hopeless misanthrope could think of idly folding his hands and giving up in despair. The gradual but steady evolution of the human race, its continuous progress towards higher and better conditions, is a well founded article of our nineteenth century creeds. The medical profession as a whole has exercised a strong and wholesome influence in the process of formulating and justifying these hopeful and inspiring articles of faith, and that it will continue to do so there is every reason to believe. Without for a moment arrogating to myself the wisdom or the powers of the prophet or the seer, this much I will venture to declare, that in view of the intelligence, the energy and the innate determination of the true and sincere followers and devotees of scientific medicine in this State, in view of the high and pure ambitions by which our profession as a whole are animated, and believing as I do in the ultimate triumph of truth over error, of right over wrong, of light over darkness, of honest worth over hollow sham, my faith in "the promise and the potency" of scientific

medicine is supreme, and in the present outlook there is, even here in Michigan, in my opinion, for the profession and for suffering humanity, more of hope, comfort, and encouragement than ever before.



